

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 23, 2010. Claims 1-4 and 6-16 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 2, and 10-15 are in independent form. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 10-15 have been amended to define aspects of Applicants' invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0102192 (*Serceki*); that Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by a document entitled "The Windows XP Wireless Zero Configuration Service" (*Zero*); and that Claim 4 is rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Serceki* view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,522 (*Ito et al.*). For at least the following reasons, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 2, and 10-15, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Independent Claims 1, 2, and 13

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a wireless communication system including first and second wireless communication devices. The first wireless communication device includes an interface unit, a first detection unit, a first connection unit, a first transmission unit, a second detection unit, a display unit, and a control unit.

Notably, to search for a wireless communication device capable of performing a data processing function selected by an operator via the interface unit, the first connection unit connects to a base station that transmitted a beacon detected by the first detection unit. The first transmission unit transmits a search signal for searching for the wireless communication device capable of performing of the data processing function selected by the operator via the interface

unit, to one or more wireless communication devices connected to the base station connected to by the first connection unit. The second detection unit detects the wireless communication device capable of performing the selected data processing function based on a response signal received in response to the search signal. When an operator selects the information device displayed by the display unit, the control unit terminates a detection process of the first detection unit and executes connection processing with the wireless communication device associated with the selected information.

By virtue of the operation of the interface, first transmission, second detection, display, and control units, the first wireless communication device according to Claim 1 can quickly connect to a newly detected wireless communication device that performs an operator selected function, such as a printing function, for example.¹ That is, because the second detection unit can detect a wireless communication device that performs a function selected by an operator via the interface unit, the operator can cause the control unit to establish a connection with the wireless communication device that performs the operator selected function, without first establishing connections to other wireless communication devices that do not perform the selected function, for example.

Serceki is understood to relate to a software tool that runs on a computer with wireless communication capabilities (*see* paragraph 4). *Serceki* discusses that a wireless station 100 includes, *inter alia*, a keyboard 112, a mouse 114, and a radio module 116 (*see* paragraph 22). As best understood by Applicants, the Office Action alleges that an application is a data processing function and that the wireless station 100 disclosed by *Serceki* receives a selection of a data processing function (*e.g.*, an application) from an operator of the wireless station 100 via

¹ Any examples presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the claims

the keyboard 112 (e.g., a name of the application) or via the mouse 114 (e.g., an identifier corresponding to an icon associated with the application), which causes the application to be retrieved from memory and executed by the wireless station 100 (see Office Action, pages 2 and 3).

Nothing has been found in *Serceki* that is believed to teach or suggest that the radio module 116 of the wireless station 100 transmits a search signal for searching for a wireless communication device capable of data processing function specified by an operator of the wireless station 100 via the keyboard 112 or the mouse 114. Moreover, nothing has been found in *Serceki* that is believed to teach or suggest that the wireless station 100 detects a wireless communication device capable of performing a data processing function selected by the operator via the keyboard 112 or the mouse 114, based on a response signal received in response to the search signal.

In summary, Applicants submit that *Serceki* fails to teach or suggest a wireless communication system including a wireless communication device that includes an “interface unit adapted to receive a selection of a data processing function specified by an operator,” a “first transmission unit adapted to transmit a search signal for searching for the wireless communication device capable of performing the data processing function selected by the operator via the interface unit, to one or more wireless communication devices connected to the base station connected to by said first connection unit,” a “second detection unit adapted to detect, among the one or more wireless communication devices connected to the base station connected to by said first connection unit, the wireless communication device capable of performing the data processing function selected by the operator via the interface unit, based on a response signal received in response to the search signal,” a “display unit adapted to selectively

display information associated with the wireless communication device detected by said second detection unit so as to determine a wireless communication partner,” and a “control unit adapted to, when the operator selects the information displayed by said display unit, while said first detection unit performs a detection process to detect the plurality of beacons, terminate the detection process of said first detection unit and execute connection processing with the wireless communication device associated with the selected information,” as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by *Serceki*, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 2 and 13 include features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 1 that these claims are believed to be patentable over *Serceki* for at least the reasons discussed above.

Independent Claims 10 and 14

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 10 is directed to a wireless communication device that switches between a history search mode and a new search mode. The wireless communication device performs a communication process in each mode. In the history search mode, the wireless communication device communicates with a partner wireless communication device that had been communicated with previously. In the new search mode, the wireless communication device communicates with a newly searched for partner wireless communication device. The wireless communication device includes a storage unit, an instruction unit, a beacon detection unit, a search unit, a first display unit, a second display unit, and a wireless communication establishment process unit. The storage unit stores device identification information and network identification information associated with a partner wireless communication device to which the wireless communication device has been connected

previously. The instruction unit is operated by a user to select one of the history search mode and the new search mode. The beacon detection unit operates in the new search mode and detects a plurality of beacons.

Notably, in the new search mode, the search unit compares network identification information included in a detected beacon with the network identification information stored in said storage unit; upon finding a match in the compared network identification information, the search unit causes the detection unit to detect another beacon. In the new search mode, if a beacon including new network identification information is detected, the search unit searches a network configured by a base station that transmitted the beacon for a new partner wireless communication device, based on the new network identification information.

In the new search mode, the first display unit selectively displays device identification information of the new partner wireless communication device found by the search unit. When the history search mode is selected by the instruction unit, the second display unit selectively displays the device identification information associated with the partner wireless communication device stored in the storage unit. When device identification information displayed by one of the display units is selected, the wireless communication establishment process unit executes a wireless communication establishment process with a wireless communication device associated with the selected device identification information.

By virtue of the operation of search unit and the first and second display units, an operator of the wireless communication device according to Claim 10 can view and select device identification information associated with a partner wireless communication device in accordance with a mode (*i.e.*, new search mode and history mode) selected by the operator, for example.

The Office Action alleges that functions of the search unit recited in Claim 10 that are conditioned using the word “if” are not positively recited. In response, the search unit of Claim 10 has been amended to replace recitations of the “if” with “when.”

Zero is understood to relate to a Wireless Zero Configuration Service for a computer running the Windows XP operating system (*see Title*). The Wireless Zero Configuration Service is understood to gather and display device identification information of Access Points that provide wireless networks. The Wireless Zero Configuration Service, however, is not understood to gather, much less display, device identification information of devices that are connected to the Access Points. Moreover, the Wireless Zero Configuration Service is not understood to include a new search mode, wherein network identification information included in a detected beacon is compared with stored network identification information and, when there is a match in the network identification information, another beacon is detected, and wherein, when a beacon including new network identification information is detected, a network configured by a base station that transmitted the beacon is searched for a new partner wireless communication device.

In summary, nothing has been found in *Zero* that is believed to teach or suggest a wireless communication device that includes a “search unit adapted to, in the new search mode, compare network identification information included in a detected beacon with the network identification information stored in said storage unit, cause said detection unit to detect another beacon, when there is a match in the compared network identification information,” wherein, “in the new search mode, when a beacon including new network identification information is detected, the search unit searches a network configured by a base station that transmitted the beacon for a new partner wireless communication device, based on the new network

identification information,” and a “first display unit adapted to, in the new search mode, selectively display device identification information of the new partner wireless communication device found by said search unit,” as recited in Claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 10 is not anticipated by *Zero*, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

Independent Claim 14 includes features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 10 that Claim 14 is believed to be patentable over *Zero* for at least the reasons discussed above.

Independent Claims 11, 12, and 15

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 11 is directed to a wireless communication system including first and second wireless communication devices. The first wireless communication device includes an interface unit, a discrimination unit, a determination unit, and a display unit. The interface unit receives a selection of a processing function specified by an operator.

Notably, the discrimination unit discriminates a type of device capable of performing the processing function selected by the operator via the interface unit. When receiving beacons transmitted from devices on wireless networks, the determination unit determines whether device identification information corresponding to the type discriminated by the discrimination unit is included in the received beacons. The display unit selectively displays information associated with each device that transmitted a beacon that includes the device identification information corresponding to the type discriminated by the discrimination unit, and does not display information associated with each device that transmitted a beacon that does not include the device identification information corresponding to the type discriminated by the discrimination unit.

By virtue of the operation of the interface, discrimination, determination, and display units, the first wireless communication device according to Claim 11 can quickly connect to a type of wireless communication device that performs an operator selected function, such as a printing function, for example. That is, because the display unit only displays information associated a type of device capable of performing the operated selected function, the operator can cause the control unit to establish a connection with the type of wireless communication device that performs the operator selected function, without first establishing connections to other types of wireless communication devices that do not perform the selected function, for example.

Serceki is discussed above in connection with Claim 1. The wireless station 100 disclosed by *Serceki* is not understood to make determinations as to whether information included in beacons received by the radio module 116 corresponds to a type of device capable of performing a processing function selected by an operator via the keyboard 112 or the mouse 114, much less selectively display information based such determinations.

In summary, Applicants submit that *Serceki* fails to teach or suggest a wireless communication system including a wireless communication device that includes an “interface unit adapted to receive a selection of a processing function specified by an operator,” a “discrimination unit adapted to discriminate a type of device capable of performing the processing function selected by the operator via the interface unit,” a “determination unit adapted to, when receiving beacons transmitted from devices on wireless networks, determine whether device identification information corresponding to the type discriminated by said discrimination unit is included in the received beacons,” and a “display unit adapted to, selectively display information associated with each device that transmitted a beacon including the device

identification information corresponding to the type discriminated by said discrimination unit, and not to display information associated with each device that transmitted a beacon not including the device identification information corresponding to the type discriminated by said discrimination unit,” as recited in Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 11 is not anticipated by *Serceki*, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 12 and 15 include features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 11 such that these claims are believed to be patentable over *Serceki* for at least the reasons discussed above.

Ito et al. is understood to relate to a system for causing plural devices corresponding to communication methods of different formats to be recognized as a single communication system (*see* col. 1, lines 7-14). Nothing has been found in *Ito et al.* that is believed to remedy the deficiencies of *Serceki* or *Zero* as a reference against the independent claims herein.

The other claims in the present application depend from independent Claim 2 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lock See Yu-Jahnes/

Lock See Yu-Jahnes
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10104-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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